

State Dept. review completed

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
28 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 88  
(as of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

GENERAL

1. There is little activity reported on the Egyptian front. Occasional firing was noted yesterday and on through the early evening hours. UN observers reported explosions near Suez City during the evening. They also reported that an observation post near the city could not be occupied--probably due to the firing--suggesting that the city may not be completely secured as the Israelis had previously claimed. The air activity detected over the evening was light with no indication that the air forces of either side has been drawn into any fighting.

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2. The Syrian front is quiet. No air activity--Israeli or Syrian--was reported during the late evening and early morning hours, although Israeli aircraft returned to the air at dawn.

3. [Redacted] the Jordanian [Redacted] Armored Brigade, now facing the Israelis in

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the vicinity of El Hara, will be replaced by a Syrian unit today. The brigade will be withdrawn to a second line position. With the Iraqi forces now in Syria scheduled to be withdrawn soon, Syrian forces will begin to occupy all positions opposite the Israeli salient.

ISRAELI, EGYPTIAN OFFICERS AGREE ON THIRD ARMY RESUPPLY

4. A meeting early today between Egyptian and Israeli officers, under the auspices of UN observers, resulted in an agreement allowing the resupply of the Egyptian Third Army on the east bank. The officers, who met on Israeli-held territory inside Egypt, also discussed cease-fire lines and agreed to hold further negotiations at an unspecified time. The Israelis agreed to allow a convoy of 100 trucks driven by UN personnel to pass through Israeli lines with non-military supplies for the Third Army.

SOVIET AIRLIFT

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SOVIET SEALIFT

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6. No additional suspect Soviet arms carriers have entered the sealift to the Middle East since the [redacted] on 26 October. [redacted]

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STATUS OF SOVIET FORCES

8. The US aircraft carriers Independence and Franklin D. Roosevelt are on station south of Crete and the USS John F. Kennedy was scheduled to arrive this morning. [REDACTED]

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HEYKAL ON ISRAELI PENETRATION OF WEST BANK

9. Today's Al Ahram carried an article by Muhammad Heykal, the editor of the influential Cairo newspaper, in which Heykal seeks to explain the cause and significance of the Israeli penetration of the west bank. Heykal charges that US photographic intelligence acquired on 13 October, was passed to Tel Aviv, permitting the Israelis to attack the weakest points of the Egyptian lines on the east bank of the Suez Canal. Heykal claims that most of the Israeli gains on the west bank occurred after the 22 October cease-fire. He describes the Egyptian military situation as still good, and claims Israeli forces on the west bank consist only of some "guerrilla tanks," without concentration or depth. The article maintains that the Egyptian army holds large parts of Sinai. The aim of the article is to minimize the seriousness of the Israeli penetration and to suggest that the situation was not caused by any Egyptian deficiency.

CAIRO PAPER ASSESSES SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENTS

10. Cairo's Jumhuriyah newspaper contends in a Sunday editorial that in Secretary Kissinger's recent press con-

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force statements is discerned "a new tune" in regard to US views toward the Middle East situation. The paper says the shift in US views was signaled by Secretary Kissinger's comment that Israel must now be ready for the "permanent, just peace demanded by the Security Council," and by the secretary's statement that the US is ready to use diplomatic leverage to get negotiations started. Jumahiyah argues that the US's "new tune" stems from Washington's realization of the dimensions of the new situation in the Middle East, a situation created by Arab solidarity and the effective support of the Soviet Union.

#### UNITED NATIONS

11. On Saturday night, the UN Security Council voted 14-0--with China not participating--to approve Secretary General Waldheim's proposal to establish a 7,000-man UN Emergency Force for the Middle East. The force will serve for six months, but the Security Council can extend its operations. The emergency force will be financed by assessments made by the General Assembly under Article 17 of the UN charter; Secretary General Waldheim estimates the six-month cost of the force to be \$30 million. China has announced it will not help pay for the force, and Soviet Ambassador Malik said his government's position in regard to the financing of such operations is well known--the Soviet Union in the past has declined to contribute to peacekeeping operations.

12. The UN emergency force will be composed of a number of nationals to be contingents selected by Waldheim in consultation with the Security Council, and the parties concerned, "bearing in mind the accepted principle of equitable geographic representation."

#### MALIK-SCALI DIALOGUE CONTINUES

13. Ambassador Scali met with Soviet Ambassador Malik following the Security Council meeting of 27 October. They continued their discussion of possible US and Soviet parti-

icipation on the United Nations truce supervision teams, as well as the staffing of the UN Emergency Force.

Ambassador Malik said his instructions were to ensure that US and Soviet observers would be fully integrated into the UN Truce Supervisory Organization "so that the two countries would have the same confidential information from the same place." Failure to reach agreement on this point could "torpedo the understanding" now existing, Malik said, a development which-- according to the ambassador--the Soviet Union would like to avoid.

14. Referring to the principle of "equitable geographic distribution" included in the UN Security Council resolution adopted earlier on 27 October, Malik argued that the UN Emergency Force should have contingents from four Soviet bloc countries, to go along with the Finns, Swedes, Austrians, and Canadians who are already active. Ambassador Scali replied that the US thought that no country actively hostile to either of the belligerents should be included in the emergency force. Malik reportedly looked pained and called this an "unfriendly, cold war-kind of approach."

#### ALLON ON NEGOTIATIONS

15. Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Allon said yesterday he would not oppose a return of Israeli and Egyptian armies to their pre-6 October positions as a first step toward initiating talks with Egypt. Allon also said Tel Aviv might allow Egyptian forces to remain on the east bank if this were necessary for the start of negotiations. He said he hoped contacts on the military level would lead to talks regarding a durable peace, which he said should be based on four points: defensible borders; effective reciprocal security arrangements, including controlled demilitarization; a balance of power between the parties in the dispute; and peace treaties.

PRISONERS OF WAR

16. Israel reports that it holds about 4,600 Arab prisoners of war. The names of about 1600 of the prisoners in the hands of the IDF have already been given to the International Red Cross. This group includes 1,265 Egyptians, 354 Syrians, 17 Iraqis, and 5 Moroccans. The remaining 3,000 prisoners, most of whom are said to be Egyptians, have not been processed and it will take several days to get name lists to the Red Cross.

17. Foreign Minister Eban expressed concern yesterday over what his government considers to be the uncooperative behavior of Egypt and Syria concerning Israeli POWs. He charged that Damascus has not forwarded the name of a single Israeli prisoner to the Red Cross, and that Cairo has submitted only 40 names. The foreign minister said that his government knows that Egypt holds "some hundreds" of Israeli prisoners. In addition, Eban said that Tel Aviv has been receiving some "macabre" reports concerning Syrian treatment of captured Israelis. 25X1

18. Eban stressed the central role of a satisfactory resolution of the POW issue to any hope for progress toward a Middle Eastern settlement.

MOROCCO'S CALL FOR ARAB FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING

19. According to the official Moroccan news agency, seven Arab states--Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and Syria--have accepted King Hassan's proposal for a meeting of Arab foreign and defense ministers to establish a common position on Middle East issues. Egyptian Foreign Minister Zayyat reportedly has expressed interest in the proposal.

JORDAN

20.

King

Husayn's image has been considerably enhanced, with wide-spread agreement--except among diehards--that he played his cards skillfully. Pres Sadat's prestige diminished somewhat as an appreciation of the changed military situation settled in. Secretary of State Kissinger's press conference was well-received by better educated Jordanians. The US image also improved vis-a-vis the Soviet Union when the Soviets were perceived to compromise their pro-Arab stand to preserve detente. There is some indication that the man-on-the-street and radical Palestinians took a more cynical view of US actions on the assumption that the US kept the Soviets at bay merely to allow the Israelis to consolidate their military position.

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ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION

21.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban

has expressed the view that Israel's position has been strengthened by the 1973 conflict because the world saw that the Arabs started the war and had foregone a political option in doing so, according to the embassy.

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some countries have severed ties with Tel Aviv for reasons not directly related to the territorial issue, there is a disinclination abroad to accept the thesis that a militarily powerful country like Israel needs a large territorial buffer for its security. Moreover, many countries probably will not agree with the current Israeli argument that the 1973 war proves this thesis.

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